

Hafa Adai!

4 SIS students named Questbridge College Prep Scholars. **PAGE 2**

MVA joins ADEX Ocean Festival Singapore. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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CPA hosts full-scale Triennial Airport Disaster Drill last weekend

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, over the weekend, hosted a required full-scale Airport Disaster Drill which entailed a simulated plane crash and simulated

See CPA on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Last Friday, the Commonwealth Ports Authority held its 2023 full scale Triennial Airport Disaster Drill at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport which simulated a plane crash involving about 200 people.

New evidence in parole chief's trial



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Chief parole officer Nick Masga Reyes yesterday leaves Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho's court room.

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The bench trial in the forgery and misconduct in public office case against parole chief Nick Masga Reyes entered Day 2 yesterday with the prosecution admitting new evidence found stowed away at the Parole Board office.

See NEW on Page 4

CCC board members set to discuss IPI's bankruptcy petition

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Members of the Commonwealth Casino Commission are set to discuss Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's filing of



DeLeon Guerrero

Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition in federal court during their regular monthly meeting tomorrow, Thursday.

According to the meeting's agenda, CCC commissioners are also going to discuss an update on the commissioners' schedule for deliberation whether or not to revoke IPI's exclusive gaming license.

The commissioners will consult with their legal

See CCC on Page 4

PSS secures \$1.45M FEMA grant for 6 schools' windows, doors

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has awarded the Public School System \$1.458 million in hazard mitigation grant that will shore up disaster mitigation and prevention for six public schools. The FEMA grant, made

possible through the CNMI Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, will fund the installation of a total of 911 impact-resistant windows and doors for Tanapag Middle School, Ko-



Camacho

blerville Elementary School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, Marianas High School, and Tinian Elementary School.

The installation of typhoon-resistant windows and doors will provide enhanced protection against extreme weather conditions, safeguarding the well-being of students, faculty, and staff members.

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INSIDE



LOCAL

The U.S. Department of Defense along with the government of the CNMI convened the inaugural CNMI Environmental and Land Stewardship Working Group in mid-March on Saipan.

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BUSINESS

Tron, the leader in providing golf and club-related leisure and hospitality services, has announced that it has been selected to manage LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort on Saipan.

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LIFE & STYLE

In his final letter to his wife before he vanished on Mount Everest a century ago, George Mallory tried to ease her worries even as he said his chances of reaching the world's highest peak were "50 to 1 against us."

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Local

PSS AT YOUTH CONGRESS REGULAR SESSION



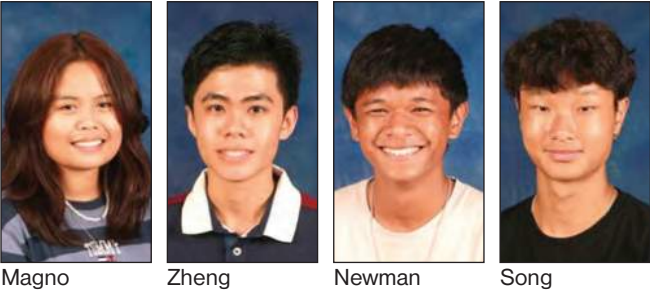
Following last Saturday's 7th regular session of the 19th Youth Congress at the House of Representatives Chamber on Capital Hill, youth senators representing the different public and private schools in the CNMI, engage Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho. The Youth Congress members are speaker Vinnie Juan Q. Sablan of Kagman High School; vice speaker Peaches Fiona G. Bayot of Marianas High School; floor leader Maili Ilareyo'l B. Peter of Mount Carmel School; legislative secretary Ysabella Nikonia Rita V. Palacios of Tinian Jr. Sr. High School; senator Ayden Sean C. Yumul of Grace Christian Academy; senator Aden Chonne H. Calvo of Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School; senator Soledad Maria Tudela Sablan of Saipan International School, and senator Mickyiel Josh B. Cabrera of Saipan Southern High School.



The members of the 19th CNMI Youth Congress: speaker Vinnie Juan Q. Sablan of Kagman High School; vice speaker Peaches Fiona G. Bayot of Marianas High School; floor leader Maili Ilareyo'l B. Peter of Mount Carmel School; legislative secretary Ysabella Nikonia Rita V. Palacios of Tinian Jr. Sr. High School; senator Ayden Sean C. Yumul of Grace Christian Academy; senator Aden Chonne H. Calvo of Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School; senator Soledad Maria Tudela Sablan of Saipan International School, and senator Mickyiel Josh B. Cabrera of Saipan Southern High School were joined by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho following last Saturday's regular session at the chamber of the CNMI House of Representatives on Capital Hill.

4 SIS students named Questbridge College Prep Scholars

Saipan International School announced that four outstanding students—Ian Song, Milarose Magno, Christian Newman, and Jacky Zheng—have been selected to participate in the Questbridge College Prep Scholars Program. Together, they represent a quarter of the junior class, showcasing the academic promise cultivated at SIS. Out of over 16,000 applicants, they join the ranks of 3,911 high school juniors honored with this distinction. Questbridge, a leading nonprofit dedicated to connecting talented low-income students with educational opportunities, has recognized the exceptional potential of these four students from SIS. Through the College Prep Scholars Program, Song, Magno, Newman, and Zheng will receive personalized college admissions support, valuable resources, and guidance to navigate the path to higher education successfully. Additionally, they may receive awards such as full scholarships for college



summer programs, access to Quest for Excellence Awards, and participation in the Questbridge National College Admissions Conference.

potential and contribute meaningfully to their communities and beyond.

About SIS

SIS is a leading educational institution in the CNMI, offering a comprehensive K-12 education that fosters academic excellence, character development, and global citizenship. SIS is dedicated to providing a supportive learning environment where students are inspired to achieve their fullest potential and make a positive impact on the world. For more information about Saipan International School and its commitment to academic excellence and student success, visit <https://www.saipaninternationalschool.com/>.

About Questbridge

Questbridge is a nonprofit organization based in Palo Alto, California, that connects talented low-income students with educational opportunities at leading colleges and universities across the United States. Through its various programs and initiatives, Questbridge aims to break down barriers to higher education and empower students from underprivileged backgrounds to achieve their academic and professional goals. For more information visit <https://www.questbridge.org/>. (PR)

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Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

MVA joins ADEX Ocean Festival Singapore



Sydney Takahashi, left, owner of Fishguys Scuba & Charter, joins the Marianas Visitors Authority delegation in promoting the Marianas at ADEX Ocean Festival Singapore on April 12-14, 2024.

Fresh off its Japan Marine Diving Awards selection as #2 Best Diving Area Global early this month, the Marianas touted its diving and other attractions on April 12-14, 2024, at ADEX Ocean Festival Singapore, the largest dive expo in Asia.

The three-day event presented a diverse array of activities and attractions, including immersive dive experiences, interactive workshops, marine conservation talks, underwater photography and videography showcases, cutting-edge diving gear displays, and more.

"ADEX is a celebration of the ocean, bringing together diving enthusiasts, marine



Diving enthusiasts stop by the Marianas Visitors Authority booth at ADEX Ocean Festival Singapore on April 12-14, 2024, to learn more about Marianas diving and other attractions.

conservationists, industry experts, and adventure seekers under one roof," said Marianas Visitors Authority

Marketing manager Thomas Kim. "The festival serves as a platform for fostering a deeper appreciation of the ocean's wonders and promoting sustainable practices to preserve our marine ecosystems. It was an excellent opportunity for the Marianas Visitors Authority to network with key stakeholders in the diving and marine tourism industry. Building relationships with industry professionals



Delegates from the Marianas, Guam, and Palau collaborate to promote diving in the Micronesia region and their respective island countries and territories during ADEX Ocean Festival Singapore on April 12-14, 2024.

Hashimoto to also speak at Chamber meeting

Mark Hashimoto, executive director of the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, will also serve as a guest speaker in the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's May general membership meeting scheduled for May 1, 2024, from 11:30am to 1pm at the Sunflower Hall of World Resort Saipan.

Earlier, the Chamber announced that acting Department of Public Safety commissioner Anthony I. Macaranas will be its guest speaker for its May general membership and he was expected to share an overview of DPS initiatives and his plan of action.

The Chamber will also share updates about recent and future plans, activities, and more from its committee chairs.

Join the Chamber for an informative discussion, to register for the May general membership meeting, RSVP by visiting the fol-

lowing link: <https://business.saipanchamber.com/events/details/2024-may-general-membership-meeting-464?calendar-Month=2024-05-01> or you may contact the Chamber's office at (670) 234-7150 or send an email at contactus@saipanchamber.org.

The registration fee is \$35 for Chamber members and \$40 for future Chamber members which includes a delicious lunch, networking opportunities, and insightful discussions.

The Chamber is a non-profit organization with approximately 140 members dedicated to promoting the economic growth and development of the CNMI. The Chamber serves as the collective voice of the business community, advocating for their interests, fostering collaboration, and driving initiatives that support the local economy. (PR)



Hashimoto



Macaranas

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS' DAY

Hopwood celebrates Gabionza, Hocog

Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School recognizes Ronald Gabionza and Ruby Hocog for their hard work, administrative support, and dedication to the school on the occasion of National Administrative Professionals' Day today, April 24.

National Administrative Professionals' Day, also known as Secretaries Day or Admin Day, recognizes the professionals who keep an office running

smoothly every day.

National Administrative Professionals' Day is held on the Wednesday of the last full week in April of each year. The day recognizes the work of secretaries, administrative assistants, receptionists,

and other administrative support professionals. Central to any business, these professionals keep an office organized and efficient. (PR)



Hocog



Gabionza



Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF RENEWAL

CRM WATERSPORTS AND RECREATIONAL PERMIT
RENEWAL DEADLINE: MAY 30TH, 2024

NOTICE TO ALL CNMI MARINE SPORTS OPERATORS

THE DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (DCRM) OF THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY (BECQ-DCRM) WOULD LIKE TO REMIND ALL MARINE SPORT OPERATORS THAT ALL WATERSPORTS AND RECREATIONAL PERMITS WILL EXPIRE ON MAY 30TH, 2024. TO AVOID ANY INTERRUPTION OF YOUR WATERSPORTS ACTIVITIES, PLEASE SUBMIT A COMPLETE CRM PERMIT APPLICATION TO DCRM ON OR BEFORE THE MAY 30TH DEADLINE. TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL SUBMISSION OF YOUR CRM PERMIT APPLICATION, PLEASE ATTACH ALL REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS WITH YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION INCLUDING A COPY OF YOUR PAYMENT RECEIPT ISSUED BY THE CNMI TREASURY. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT TO ENSURE THAT THEIR CRM PERMIT APPLICATION IS FINAL AND COMPLETE PRIOR TO SUBMISSION. SUBMISSION OF AN INCOMPLETE APPLICATION WILL BE "TABLED" UNTIL APPLICANT SUBMITS ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS.

ANY APPLICATION RECEIVED AFTER THE MAY 30TH DEADLINE, WILL BE CONSIDERED AS A NEW PERMIT APPLICATION AND IS SUBJECT TO AN INITIAL FEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CRM RULES AND REGULATIONS, NMIAC 15-10-205(H)(4)).

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT MR. NEIL TAIACAN OR MS. PRIMROSE TAITANO AT permitting@dcrm.gov.mp OR, BY CALLING (670) 664-8300.

/s/ RICHARD V. SALAS
DCRM DIRECTOR

can lead to potential collaborations and partnerships to promote the Marianas as a premier diving destination."

The MVA showcased to a targeted audience of diving enthusiasts and travel influencers the unique attractions and dive sites that Saipan, Tinian, and Rota offer, increasing the Marianas' brand visibility and recognition among a niche audience passionate about diving and marine conservation. Among the thousands of festival attendees, over 300 stopped at the MVA booth to speak with representatives about the Marianas or sign up to receive destination information via email. (PR)

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT BANK,	Civil Action No. 22-0144
Plaintiff,	NOTICE OF SALE
v.	
LEILANI D. ELLIS (aka LEILANI C. ELLIS), LEILANN R. ELLIS, and CLIFFORD M. CAMACHO,	
Defendants.	

Plaintiff Pacific Islands Development Bank ("PIDB") hereby gives notice that, in order to satisfy sums due pursuant to the Judgment and Order dated September 12, 2023, in favor of PIDB, and the Order of Foreclosure Sale dated February 20, 2024, the auctioneer designated in the Order of Foreclosure Sale will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on **Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.**, the following parcel of real property:

Lot 004 D 24, Garapan, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 004 D 00, the original of which was registered 16 November 1970 as Document No. 650 at Land Registry, including all improvements, appurtenances, and easements used in connection therewith, all water and water rights used in connection therewith, and also the rents, issues and profits thereof ("the Property").

This is a continuation of the auction that was held on April 2, 2024, and adjourned.

TERMS OF SALE

- Auction Location.** The auction will be held at the law offices of Banes Horey Berman and Miller, LLC ("Banes Horey"), Macararas Building, First Floor, 4165 Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.
- Auction Procedure.** The auctioneer designated by the Court will conduct an auction via competitive bidding. The bidding will remain open until the auctioneer declares it closed. If a dispute arises between bidders, the auctioneer shall make the final decision either to determine the successful bidder or to resell the Property.
- Auctioneer's Rights.** The auctioneer may withdraw the Property from sale at any time before the auctioneer accepts a winning bid; adjourn the auction without notice, at any time before the auctioneer accepts a winning bid; reject any bid, for any reason; or expel a bidder from the auction location.
- Bids.** Bidders may submit bids in advance for the Property. These bids will not be binding. The highest advance bid will become the opening bid for the Property on the day of the auction. During the bidding, bidders may make bids in person or by telephone to Banes Horey at (670) 234-5684.
- Deposit.** The successful bidder shall give Banes Horey an earnest money deposit by personal check, cashier's check, or money order equal to 10.00 percent of the winning bid amount ("the Deposit"). Banes Horey will apply the Deposit toward the amount of the winning bid. If the winning bidder fails to deliver the Deposit to Banes Horey before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the auction, the winning bidder's bid will be deemed to be automatically rejected, without further notice to the winning bidder. A bidder who bids by telephone shall comply with the deposit requirement.
- Sale Terms.** The winning bidder shall pay the full amount of the winning bid to PIDB by personal check, cashier's check, or money order no later than 10 business days after winning the auction. The closing will take place at Banes Horey, Macararas Building, First Floor, 4165 Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. The winning bidder may request that the closing proceed through escrow, on condition that the winning bidder pay all escrow fees.
- Property Sold "AS IS WHERE IS."** The Property is being sold in "AS IS WHERE IS" condition. PIDB and the auctioneer make no representations, express or implied, with respect to the Property's title, area, location, or suitability for any particular purpose, or the existence or non-existence of any conditions that might affect development of the Property, including but not limited to zoning, hazardous waste, historical preservation issues, threatened or endangered species, and wetlands.
- Changes to Auction Terms.** Either PIDB or the auctioneer may change or add to these terms or any additional terms prior to or at the auction. An oral announcement made at the auction will supersede anything in writing, including these terms. All changes made in this manner will be binding on the winning bidder.

/s/
Richard C. Miller
Auctioneer

Public Service Recognition Week back in May

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After a year of hiatus, the CNMI, through the Office of Personnel Management and the Civil Service Commission, will celebrate Public Service Recognition Week from May 5 to 11 to honor the people who serve the Commonwealth.

At a press conference yes-

terday, PSRW committee public information officer Reina C. Camacho said public service recognition is a nationwide celebration as it is the same for federal, state, country, local and tribal government employees.

This year, divisions and departments shall be nominating and making their final selections for Department Employ-

ee of the Year.

The 2024 theme is: "We are United for a Greater Commonwealth."

The awardees will be recognized during the site visits during the week of May 5 to 11 at their respective offices.

Camacho said CNMI will hold its proclamation signing on May 1 from 2pm to 3pm at the Pedro Tenorio

Multi-Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The planning team, consisting of 20 government departments and autonomous agencies, have been working with their offices to select a Division Employee of the Year, Department Employee of the Year and Leadership Awardees.

The overall Government Employee of the Year will be

announced and awarded at the Labor Day government picnic in September 2024.

The other awardees will be recognized throughout the week of May 6 to 11 on Saipan, and on May 9 and 10 on Rota. The Tinian schedule is pending.

Each year, Camacho said, the OPM and all its partners help people and organizations recognize the important work public servants do.

OPM acting director Joseph M. Pangelinan said Marie Tenorio Muna, whom he appointed

as chairperson of the committee, formed a committee that planned, organized, and put the PSRW events together.

Pangelinan said it looks like they have a meaningful ceremony.

Pangelinan said PSRW started in 1995 in the U.S. and then it was formalized in 1988 under U.S. Senate Joint Resolution 242.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Victim in sexual abuse of a minor case asks not to move forward with trial

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The victim in a sexual assault of a minor case set for a jury trial this coming April 29 has asked the prosecution not to move forward with trial.

Last week, assistant attorney general Frances T. Demapan—the prosecutor in the sexual abuse of a minor case against Aldin Christopher Igisaia—asked Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio to vacate the April 29 jury

trial against Igisaia.

According to Demapan, after extensive discussion with the victim in this case in preparation for the trial, the victim requested not to move forward with the trial.

"The decision to move forward with prosecution is based upon more than whether there is sufficient evidence to prove that the defendant violated a criminal statute," she said. "The Commonwealth must also consider the impact of the crime on the minor victim

and her wish to testify. After extensive discussion with the victim during trial preparations, the victim requests not to move forward due to the impact of this trial on her and her minor siblings."

Kim-Tenorio, for her part, vacated the jury trial, granting the prosecution's request to dismiss without prejudice the sexual abuse of a minor case against Igisaia.

Without prejudice means the case can be refiled.

"While the Commonwealth still believes that the defen-

dant committed the charged offenses, it must also respect the wishes of the victim and her desire to move forward with her life," Demapan said.

Igisaia, 45, was charged with one count of attempted sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, and disturbing the peace.

The incident happened on or between Nov. 14, 2014, and Nov. 14, 2016, according to the information filed by the prosecution.

USS Emory S. Land visits Saipan, sailors to volunteer in community

ASAN, Guam—Sailors of USS *Emory S. Land* (AS 39) will conduct training and volunteer their time during a port visit on Saipan, in the CNMI today, April 24.

While on island, sailors will participate in the following community service projects:

■ April 25: American Memorial Park beautification from 8am to 12pm.

■ April 26: Tank Beach clean-up in Kagman from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

Emory S. Land, homeport-

ed in Guam, is a forward-deployed submarine tender tasked with providing expeditionary intermediate level maintenance and repairs, as well as providing hotel service and logistics support to deployed guided-missile and fast-attack submarines deployed in the 7th Fleet area of responsibility. *Emory S. Land* is additionally capable of providing repair and logistic services to deployed surface combatants and ships. **(PR)**

NEW

From page 1

Reyes' bench trial before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho dragged on and what was expected to be a day filled with witness testimonies, turned into a day filled with back-to-back breaks to resolve issues regarding the admission of late discovery.

When the court reconvened yesterday morning to move forward with witness testimonies, the prosecution, led by assistant attorney general James Kingman, informed the court that new evidence had been brought to light just that morning.

It was later learned that the evidence—over 30 pages of documents related to a Request for Personnel Action for an extension of Reyes' contract dated Nov. 21, 2023—was given to the prosecution by parole officer Shirlene Laniyo.

Kingman, for his part, asked that the court grant the prose-

cution a continuance to further investigate pursuant to the newfound evidence.

Kingman argued that in trial, it is not unusual for new evidence to arise during the course of it, and added that the prosecution is entitled to a continuance to give the government enough time to investigate.

However, Reyes' defense lawyers, Joaquin Torres and Matthew Holley, told the court that they did not want a continuance and the only remedy was to exclude the newfound evidence or for the court to dismiss the case and declare a mistrial.

After listening to both parties, Camacho gave the prosecution 15 minutes—despite Kingman's multiple attempts to argue why a continuance is necessary to further review documents—to review the evidence and to speak with its witnesses about is stating that he has been accommodating enough.

"You charged Mr. Reyes with misconduct in public

office, four counts of forgery. He's here now for his day in court. You charged the person, at the very least, as a prosecutor, you [should] have the amount of evidence [you need] to move forward with trial. So, we're going to take 15 minutes. I've been very accommodating to both parties. Now, you can take these few minutes to review these documents so we can move forward with some type of witness and make use of this day," he said.

After the court reconvened at around 4:15pm, the prosecution called its third witness, Laniyo, to speak on when and how she prepared them, why it was only brought to light during trial, and who instructed her to prepare them.

After about an hour of questioning, the court called for recess and is set to reconvene today at 9am.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Kingman filed last February two separate cases against Reyes—one count

of misconduct in public office and four counts of forgery.

Reyes allegedly forged and altered, on or about Dec. 20, 2023, the terms of employment of a person from 30 days to one year. This offense is punishable by imprisonment of not more than five years.

Also, Reyes and co-defendant Chuilian Fu are charged with one count of conspiracy to commit misconduct in public office, one count of conspiracy to commit theft by deception, and two counts of theft by deception in relation to the authorization of funds for the construction of a patio.

In this case, Reyes and Fu allegedly agreed last Oct. 4, 2022, to build a patio at the Parole Office that was to be built by a tailoring company owned by Fu, F&S Corp., in the amount of \$9,997.80. In reality though, the patio was allegedly built using unpaid labor performed by parolees under the direction of Reyes.

Reyes has pleaded not guilty in both cases.

CPA

From page 1

injured passengers.

Last Friday, CPA held its 2024 full-scale Triennial Airport Disaster Drill at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport which simulated a plane crash involving about 200 people.

Also participating in last Friday's drill were Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, and volunteers from the Public School System Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

Present to observe the drill were CPA Board vice chair Antonio B. Cabrera and Rep. Manny Castro (Ind-Saipan).

In an interview with Castro, he said it's always good to be proactive about natural disasters and emergencies

"I'm glad to see that our first responders [like Airport Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting], the airport facility staff, and outside partners [like] CNMI Homeland Se-

curity and Emergency taking a proactive approach in preparation for situations like this," he said.

Meanwhile, in a statement from Cabrera, he said there is always room for improvement.

"We have to be prepared at all times. We have to be proactive. This is the kind of situation that we don't look forward to. But we have to be prepared at all times. Everything seems ok but there is always room to improve. It seems we were a little behind," he said.

According to CPA, the drill is a requirement under the Federal Aviation Administration's regulations that requires each U.S. airport to conduct a full-scale drill every three years.

It helps CPA review and assess its response to a disaster should it occur at the Saipan airport.

"This exercise is required by the Federal Aviation Administration to help CPA assess their response to a disaster should it occur at the airport," said CPA.

PSS

From page 1

"We are grateful for the support of the CNMI Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and our federal partner, FEMA, in fortifying our school campuses against the impact of typhoons and natural disasters," said Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho.

"School buildings and facilities' safety and their overall structural integrity to withstand threats of natural disaster is part of our overall initiative

and commitment in providing our public school students a safe and conducive learning environment," the education chief added.

The \$1.456-million FEMA grant will be for typhoon-rated windows and doors installation.

The central government's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program has taken the lead in securing the funding for PSS. This is a 100% federal share. The installation of typhoon-resistant windows and doors will provide enhanced protection against extreme weather conditions, safeguarding the

well-being of students, faculty, and staff members.

The project is scheduled to commence immediately, with a 120-day completion period that is anticipated for March 8, 2025. During the installation process, every effort will be made to minimize disruptions to daily school operations.

The governor's authorized representative, Patrick C. Guerrero, has assigned Peter M. Tomokane as project specialist working alongside PSS on this FEMA-funded hazard mitigation windows and doors' installation project on

all the six schools.

In her notice of grant approval to Guerrero, director Kathryn Lipiecki of the mitigation division FEMA Region 9, said, among others, that the PSS project "has been determined to be Categorical Excluded from the need to prepare either an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment in accordance with FEMA Instruction 108-1-1 and FEMA Directive 108-1-1 as authorized by DHS Instruction Manual 023-01-001-01, Revision 1."

CCC

From page 1

counsel during an executive session about IPI's bankruptcy filing and their schedule for revocation deliberation.

CCC board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero set yesterday the monthly meeting for tomorrow at 10:30am at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai.

One of the meeting's agen-

da are the remarks of commissioners Martin Mendiola of Rota and Ramon Dela Cruz of Tinian.

The terms of Mendiola and Dela Cruz will end on April 30, 2024.

Included in the new business agenda is the election of chairman, vice chairman, secretary, treasurer, and public affairs/media relations. The term of the officers' office is from May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025.

CNMI, JRM convene Inaugural Environmental Stewardship Working Group

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Department of Defense along with the government of the CNMI convened the inaugural CNMI Environmental and Land Stewardship Working Group in mid-March on Saipan.

“The CNMI ELSWG began as an idea to coordinate and share information about military training in the Mariana Island Range Complex,” said

Randel Sablan, senior advisor, regional political-military affairs at Joint Region Marianas. “In addition to coordination with our CNMI partners in regard to military training and environmental mitigation efforts, with the ELSWG framework, we have offered to cover topics and issues across the spectrum of military activities in the CNMI.”

During the meeting, members engaged in discussions on environmental and land topics focusing on the development of various projects throughout the CNMI. Topics discussed during the meeting included the Tinian North Field rehabilitation, Divert Airfield con-



Huffman

struction update, the CNMI Joint Military Training Project RDEIS update and status of the JRM Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan, to name a few.

“We take seriously our responsibility to stewardship of the environment and lands in the CNMI,” said Rear Adm.

Greg Huffman, commander, Joint Region Marianas, and the U.S. Indo-PACOM senior military official. “Frequent communications with the CNMI government at all levels is absolutely essential to understanding the priorities of the community. I am pleased to see the progress our teams are making to balance our military mission requirements in the CNMI and our commitment to environmental stewardship.”

JRM, through the regional environmental coordinator

and political-military affairs advisor, functions as the lead DoD representative for organizing and conducting these meetings. Along with JRM and the government of the CNMI, other stakeholders are included in the meetings. These groups include U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. Army Pacific, U.S. Pacific Air Forces, and U.S. Marine Forces Pacific.

Future meetings will be coordinated regularly to address military environmental, land use, and development initiatives associated with service component planning, operations, training and testing in the CNMI. **(PR)**

Joeten Daidai donates \$10K to 2024 MMAC

The Joeten Daidai Foundation joins the 2024 Marianas March Against Cancer with a generous donation of \$10,000. As a Star Sponsor, Joeten Daidai reaffirms its commitment to supporting initiatives that promote community health and well-being.

There will be four tiers of sponsorship packages: The first is at \$10,000, and that sponsorship is usually represented on the MMAC shirt. The second one is \$8,000-plus, the third \$3,000-plus, and fourth is \$1,000-plus. They will also recognize \$500 and up sponsorships. This includes in-kind and monetary donations.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact: mmac.sponsor-



MMAC

The Joeten Daidai Foundation representatives pose with 2024 Marianas March Against Cancer chair Jenyppy Sambile during the \$10,000 check presentation at the Joeten Shopping Center in Susupe.

ship@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, there are six tiers of entry for participating teams: Pulan for families and Napu for schools, will cost \$300 for

both; Atdao for non-profits, \$399; Tano for non-profit organizations partnering with a school, educational institution or government agency, \$500;

Puti'on for corporations, \$550; and Tasi for corporations partnering with a family, non-profit organization or school, \$750. **(PR)**

TakeCare Insurance donates \$3K to 2024 MMAC

The 2024 Marianas March Against Cancer proudly announces TakeCare Insurance as a Title Sponsor, with a donation of \$3,000. TakeCare Insurance's support underscores its dedication to promoting health initiatives in the Marianas.

There will be four tiers of sponsorship packages: The first is at \$10,000, and that sponsorship is usually represented on the MMAC shirt. The second one is \$8,000-plus, the third \$3,000-plus, and fourth is \$1,000-plus. They will also recognize \$500 and up sponsorships. This includes in-kind and monetary donations.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact: mmac.sponsorship@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, there are six tiers of entry for participating teams: Pulan for families and Napu for schools, will cost \$300 for both; Atdao for non-profits, \$399; Tano for non-profit organizations partnering with a school, educational institution or government agency, \$500; Puti'on for corporations, \$550; and Tasi for corporations partnering with a family, non-profit organization or school, \$750. **(PR)**



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-24-016

Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the replacement of the waterline at Sihek Dr. in Capital Hill and Tangan-Tangan Dr. in Papago with the installation of new 6-inch PVC distribution main including appurtenances, valves, fittings, fire hydrants, air relief valves, flush hydrants, pressure-reducing valve, and reconnection and relocation of existing service laterals to the right-of-way. The project also includes the construction of the waterline replacement along Kailing Dr. in Dandan. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **May 14, 2024 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-24-016, Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement**”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 4, 2024**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of **fifteen percent (15%)** of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 21, 2024**, to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Project Engineer via email at alley.reyes@cucgov.org also to Mr. Mark Liban via email at mark.liban@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID ITB24-GOV/CIP-42400020

SUBMISSION DATE: **10:00 AM ChST, MAY 10, 2024**

SAIPAN AGING CENTER RESTROOM RENOVATION

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), are soliciting sealed bids for the *Saipan Aging Center Restroom Renovation* in Chinatown, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only beginning **April 10, 2024** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours or online at Vendor Self Service (selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/Vendors/Vbids).

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the project site located in Chinatown, Saipan at **10:00 AM ChST, April 25, 2024**. Questions regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to Ms. Skalan Yamada at syamada.cip@gmail.com no later than **4:30 PM ChST, May 2, 2024**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Acting Director of Procurement Services via email (bidintent@dof.gov.mp) no later than **10:00 AM ChST, May 10, 2024**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ **Arnold I. Palacios**
Governor, CNMI

/s/ **Brien Sers Nicholas Jr.**
Acting Director, CNMI Procurement Services



DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICE

CNMI GOVERNMENT



ADDENDUM NO. 2

RFP24-COTA/FTA-42400056

“Ferry Feasibility Study and Transportation Masterplan for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands”

The purpose of this addendum is for clarification for all interested proposers regarding the content of proposal, proposed time schedule, and others in the scope of work for both the Inter-Island Ferry Feasibility Study and the Sustainable Transportation Master Plan (STMP).

- Under Content of the Proposal (page 11): To add:** Interested proposers shall submit one (1) proposal only and shall not exceed **200 pages**.
- Under FFS Specific Deliverables (page 7):** To delete numbers 3 & 4 and **replace** the numbers with 1 & 2 as it is a description of the two (2) distinct deliverables with details as stipulated in the scope of work.
 - Financial and operational viability (followed by details in the scope of work)
 - Cost-benefit and economic impact analysis (followed by details in the scope of work)

Please note: For all the final deliverables, there is no page limit.

- Under the Sustainable Transportation Master Plan (STMP) (page 13): To add:** “Specific Deliverables” under “Plan Adoption”.
 - Roadway Transit Plan (RTP)** - with the details in the scope of work.
 - Ferry Transit Plan (FTP)** - with the details in the scope of work.

Please note: For all the final deliverables, there is no page limit.

All other requirements in the scope of work for the Ferry Feasibility Study and the Sustainable Transportation Master Plan shall remain.

This project is fully federally funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC §70-30.3-725 and §70-30.3-730, Prohibiting Gratuities and Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

/s/ **ALFREDA CAMACHO MARATTA**
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
TRANSPORTATION

/s/ **BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS, JR.**
ACTING DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF
PROCUREMENT SERVICES

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

How to burn tax dollars and have little to show for it

The progressive paradise of California has spent \$24 billion over the past five years to attack homelessness. Not only has the problem gotten worse, state and local government officials haven't bothered to track where the money went. Is anybody surprised?

This month, the state auditor released a long-awaited report on "Homelessness in California." The findings confirm that the Democrats who run the Golden State are often more interested in political preening than looking for solutions that actually work.

"The state doesn't have current information on the ongoing costs and results of its homelessness programs," CalMatters reported, "because the agency tasked with gathering that data—the California Interagency Council on Homelessness—has analyzed no spending past 2021, according to the report."

California has a vast political-bureaucratic complex dedicated to homelessness—no fewer than nine state agencies and 30 programs, according to CalMatters—yet the state's political class seems wholly uninterested in determining whether spending billions in taxpayer money under the guise of getting people get off the streets does indeed get people off the streets.

Members of the state's Interagency Council on Homelessness issued a written response to the audit, claiming they were unable to perform their duties because ... wait for it ... they didn't have enough money. You can't make this stuff up.

The legislative Republican who requested the audit sensibly recommended that the state freeze "new investments" when it comes to homelessness until lawmakers can figure out where all the money has gone. Predictably, this brought a rebuke from a Democratic colleague.

"I don't think it's a time to stop," state Sen. Dave Cortese, D-Santa Clara, said. "I would be disappointed personally, professionally as a state senator, if the governor or Legislature negotiated away this year's investment in homelessness."

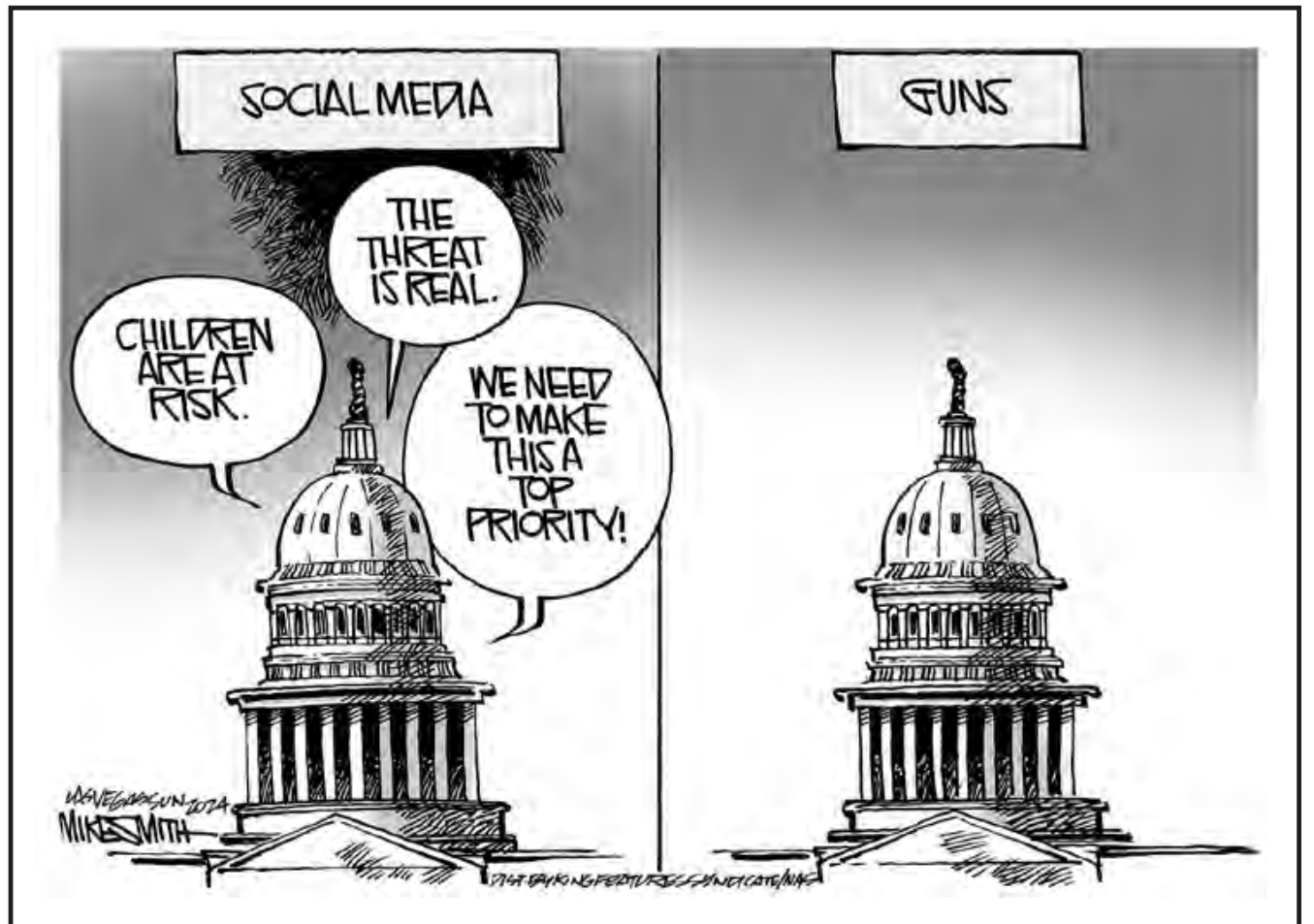
The senator might as well have endorsed lighting billions of dollars on fire as a means of helping the state's homeless survive the winter nights.

In the meantime, homelessness in the state has grown by 53% over the past decade, the Los Angeles Times reports, as Sacramento mindlessly showers more and more money into a failed system.

"These audit results are a wake-up call," said state Sen. Roger Niello, a Republican from Rosedale, "for a shift toward solutions that prioritize self-sufficiency and cost effectiveness." He might also advocate for dismantling the hyperactive regulatory apparatus that makes it virtually impossible for California to add enough housing stock to dent its shortage.

All of those suggestions will fall on deaf ears in the one-party progressive Eden. But Californians can't complain. They got what they voted for.

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Trump's Hitler fascination is an ominous echo of the 1930s

Democracy is ailing. Around the world, strongmen seem all the rage. China's Xi, Russia's Putin, Hungary's Orbán, India's Modi and a clutch of Latin Americans, together with the rise of the right in Western Europe, attest to peoples' increasing willingness to embrace ruthless, mendacious leaders whom they credulously think can get things done, while eliminating their enemies (real or imagined).

There was once a widely held belief in Europe, which became a cliché, that Italy's 1922-43 "Duce," Benito Mussolini, made the trains run on time. It was supposed, falsely, that pre-World War II strongmen offered administrative efficiency and economic success.

Many commentators, not least in the US, see a resurgence of that era's fascism. Immigrants, Muslims and foreigners have taken the place formerly occupied by Jews as scapegoats for misfortune and modernity. Conspiracy theories flourish while public services languish.

Between the two wars, communism remained an ideology cherished by a minority and left-wing elites. But fascism, with its uniforms and mass rallies, calls to eliminate "anti-social elements" and patriotic bombast, was more genuinely popular. Might was seen as a virtue, the law as an instrument to be manipulated.

Donald Trump today promises to be a "dictator"—if voters buy what he's selling. He has spoken well of Hitler. Ruth Ben-Ghiat, author of *Strongmen: Mussolini to the Present* says Trump is pursuing a campaign designed to convince Americans that "authoritarian rule is superior to democracy."

A 2023 Pew Research Center survey in 24 countries showed that enthusiasm for freely elected leaders is flagging, and a median 59% is "dissatisfied with how their democracy is functioning." Three-quarters of those polled believe that "elected officials don't care" what "ordinary people" think, while strongmen do.

For those of us with an acute consciousness of the past, especially the European past, it is terrifying to see so many people oblivious to the horrors committed by the 1930s dictators. It's also dismaying to see history repeat itself, in the willingness of many of the world's "haves" to endorse tyrants. I was once asked about the politics of a tycoon whom I knew. I responded that he simply wanted to make the world a safe place for rich people—no more, no less. He was, and remains, a cheerleader for Trump, who granted him a pardon for a US fraud conviction.

The same was equally true of the "haves" of the 1930s. Much of the British aristocracy, including most notoriously Lord Redesdale and two of his daughters—the celebrated Mitford sisters—embraced Hitler. Diana married Oswald Mosley, leader of the British Fascist Party. Her sister Unity became so besotted with Hitler, with whom she forged a friendship, that she shot herself in the head—

By MAX HASTINGS
Bloomberg Opinion



Max Hastings is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is author, most recently, of "The Abyss: Nuclear Crisis Cuba 1962."

not fatally—in despair when World War II broke out.

If Churchill had not shown favoritism to his own class by leaving them at liberty, by my reckoning at least four British dukes—Westminster, Wellington, Buccleuch and Bedford—would have been interned during the war for their links to Nazism. Why did they do it? Because, like many of Europe's rich and much of the City of London, they were haunted by an imagined Bolshevik takeover, which they feared would cost them their fortunes. They embraced the fascists as enemies of communism.

In Berlin, in April 1939, the Duke of Buccleuch planned to attend Hitler's 50th birthday party, until the British Embassy induced him instead to go home. Even after war broke out, the duke pestered Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain to seek a "face-saving peace" that would have allowed Nazi Germany to remain a Great Power. As late as July 1940, when Churchill had taken over, Buccleuch urged the Conservative chief whip to press the government to parley with Hitler. All this was an embarrassment to Buckingham Palace. Buccleuch was George VI's most senior courtier, Lord Steward of the Household. Only belatedly did the King acknowledge that Buccleuch's politics mad him an outcast, and ask him to resign.

A British historian has recently written that Buccleuch believed world war might bring revolution to Britain: "It was almost bound to lead to higher taxation and an end to the aristocratic way of life that had somehow survived World War I. His desire to preserve a strong Germany—even a Nazi one—to counter the spread of communism... was shared by a number of his fellow-magnates."

Lord Rothermere, proprietor of Britain's Daily Mail, was a notorious pre-war Nazi sympathizer. The historian and biographer of Hitler, Ian Kershaw, was once given a private guided tour of Mount Stewart, the former Northern Ireland home of Lord Londonderry, an appeaser who served as a minister in several 1930s Conservative governments. In Londonderry's study, Kershaw was

See **TRUMP'S** on Page 7

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Stop saying ‘immigrants do jobs Americans don’t want to do’

The deaths of six immigrant workers in the collapse of Baltimore’s Francis Scott Key Bridge on March 26 sparked the kind of collective empathy that usually follows tragic events. President Joe Biden was among the many who offered his prayers. In news reports, the men have been called “kindhearted,” “humble” and “heroes.”

We should ask ourselves, is it only the tragedy that made them deserving of such labels? The disparaging way immigration is framed in the US any other time makes this outpouring of praise seem like a trope.

Routinely, we hear politicians, business owners and analysts—even the well-meaning ones—say that immigrants do the jobs that Americans don’t want (and for low wages), so we should be more open to embracing them as deserving of a place in our country.

Let me break it to you: That’s no badge of honor.

To frame the conversation about immigrant workers around their sacrifices—a necessity for them—only marginalizes already vulnerable members of our communities.

The topic of immigration remains a top issue. A recent Bloomberg News/Morning Consult poll found that it ranks second only to the economy for voters. As we get closer to Election Day, we shouldn’t be glorifying the fact that immigrants do jobs that no one else wants.

Instead, we should talk more about the lack of safety of those jobs.

The Baltimore tragedy underscored that construction is one of the deadliest industries in the US. As the focus turns toward rebuilding the bridge, it’s been reported that Latinos, who make up 31% of construction workers, think the task is too dangerous. Other industries that rely on foreign-born workers are just as hazardous. The Department of Labor reports that employees of poultry and meat processing plants are exposed to diseases that are resistant to antibiotics and have an increased risk of developing lung cancer.

The labor force behind this critical part of our food supply is made up of over 37% immigrant workers, according to an analysis

of federal data by the Economic Policy Institute.

But we’d be remiss if we stopped there. U.S.-born workers are also toiling in poultry and meat processing plants—as well as building homes, repairing roofs and refilling potholes on overnight shifts. Our focus should be on finding ways to make every job as safe as it can be for everyone. Right now, all eyes are on Latinos, but this country’s disregard for the welfare of immigrant workers dates back centuries. Think about the Chinese who chiseled and blasted their way across the Sierra Nevada, digging tunnels and laying tracks for less money while working in worse conditions than their White counterparts. Their reward? Decades of restrictive policies that were designed to keep them away.

History shows that, despite the message that these jobs are some sort of down payment to be a part of our nation, somehow immigrants of color are left out. The xenophobic idea of America being only for Americans underlies the “predatory relationship between employer and immigrant employee,” says Bill Barry, the retired director of labor studies at the Community College of Baltimore County. That includes wage theft, most commonly in the form of unpaid overtime. The practice, pervasive nationwide, often goes unreported because immigrants fear unemployment or, if they don’t have legal papers, deportation.

Documented and not, immigrants have, in the words of economist Steven Rattner, been “essential to America’s post-COVID labor market recovery.”

Maynor Yassir Suazo Sandoval, 38, was from Honduras. Miguel Luna came from El Salvador. Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes, 35, and Carlos Hernández, 24, were natives of Mexico. Dorian Ronial Castillo Cabrera, 26, and Jose Mynor Lopez, 35, were from Guatemala. These six men who died while working on the Francis Scott Key Bridge should be remembered as part of that essential recovery narrative.

Outside of that, they had wives and children. They went to church on Sundays. They planted roots in the neighborhoods where they lived. At least two of them, Sandoval and Luna,

By **FERNANDO SANTOS**

Bloomberg Opinion

Fernanda Santos is a Brazilian-American journalist whose work focuses on underrepresented and misrepresented communities. She is the author of “The Fire Line: The Story of the Granite Mountain Hotshots.”



volunteered at CASA, a nonprofit that serves and advocates for Latinos.

For 30 years, CASA has screened, trained and connected “good employees with good employers” in Maryland and other states, says Gustavo Torres, its executive director. At its hiring hall in Baltimore, he said, US-born Black workers give their Latin American counterparts tips on how to negotiate pay. Recently, both have united to ask for French classes so that they can talk to franco-phone migrants from Africa.

“These are the workers who build bridges that unite communities, not the walls that divide us,” Torres said.

There’s no clarity on the immigration status of all six men killed in the bridge collapse, but the tragedy galvanized advocates, business leaders and elected officials to band together and push for the Biden administration to extend temporary protected status to immigrant workers who have lived in the United States for 5 or more years, as was the case with at least three of those who died.

This way, immigrants would at least receive legal permission to work in the US, though it does not provide a direct path to legal residency or citizenship. “It’s an opportunity for the president to recognize the contributions they’re making” and a way to energize young progressive voters, Torres said.

It’s also a gamble, especially in an election year where immi-

Trump needs strong running mate to spread the word about farce hush money trial

Donald Trump’s hush money trial makes it more imperative than ever that he pick a credible running mate in the coming weeks to rally his supporters behind his defense.

With Trump sidelined from the campaign trail, there is no one currently in the GOP ranks who can replace him.

A solid pro-MAGA surrogate VP pick could be the answer.

She or he would be able to travel the country and draw attention to the ongoing farce trial in New York that has taken crucial time and money away from the campaign.

Does anybody honestly believe this trial is not politically motivated? Or that Trump will get a fair and impartial jury in liberal Manhattan? These are questions the GOP running mate can raise across the country in pro-Trump strongholds.

All Trump’s opponents want is to stop him by any means necessary, including locking him up. Democrats don’t care if they forever damage the judicial process by weaponizing it.

The reason Democrats need to stop Trump is because their own candidate is so weak. Joe Biden these days looks like he can barely walk as he gets off his helicopter. Not a great message

to the world.

They may succeed in getting a conviction but in the process give Trump forces even more reason to vote this November.

It’s going to be difficult for the former president to endure the unprecedented media and legal barrage he’s facing. When prospective jurors were brought in on Monday, Trump already looked shaky and exhausted.

That’s why getting a running mate soon could be critical while he is held hostage in the trial.

The trial could easily backfire by making Trump look like a martyr.

Even if he’s convicted in the next few months, Trump can still run for president and become commander-in-chief. But it could lead to efforts by Democrats to block him from doing so.

The prosecution is leading with two completely non-credible witnesses, Stormy Daniel and sketchy lawyer Michael Cohen.

But Democrats are hoping Trump loses his temper during the trial or is charged with contempt.

Whoever the running mate is will be instantly the subject of a barrage of attacks. The crop of potential candidates includes South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott,

By **JOE BATTENFELD**

Boston Herald



Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, New York congresswoman Elise Stefanik, Sen. J.D. Vance of Ohio, and former congresswoman and Naval Reserve Officer Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii. Other names are Sen. Katie Britt of Alabama, and Arkansas Gov. and former White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Leading what’s described as an Apprentice-like search is Trump adviser Susie Wiles and the campaign has already hired a firm to vet candidates. Also influential in picking a running mate will be Donald Trump, Jr. and Melania.

TRUMP’S

From Page 6

fascinated to spot a white Meissen statuette of an SS stormtrooper carrying a Nazi flag. It had been presented to the British peer in 1936 by Joachim von Ribbentrop, then Hitler’s ambassador in London, when he stayed at Mount Stewart as an honored guest.

The diaries of US-born British MP Sir Henry “Chips” Channon testify to a commitment to appeasement at any price. When somebody said at Londonderry’s 1949 memorial service that perhaps the dead apologist for the Nazis had been right all along, the shameless Channon said: “Of course he was.” The dictators offered the only thing for which such people cared — security for their own kind.

Not much appears to have changed. In the US, it is terrifying to behold so many educated people enthuse about the prospect of

“strongman rule.” The historian Timothy Snyder recently penned a notable essay denouncing the folly, as well as evil, of embracing such a course. Essential to the strongman myth, he writes, “is the idea that a strongman will be your strongman. He won’t.”

Jacob Heilbrunn, editor of The National Interest and author of a new book America Last: The Right’s Century-Long Romance with Foreign Dictators, argues that Trumpism—the GOP standard-bearer’s enthusiasm for the likes of Putin and Orban—is “only the tip of the iceberg in a long history of US right-wing admiration for demagogues and despots elsewhere.”

“Trump is rebranding odious doctrines from the past as something new and shiny and attractive,” the author concludes.

President Joe Biden’s gravest electoral vulnerability is that he appears weak. The recent Pew poll shows half of its respondents, in half the middle-income nations surveyed, enthused about adopting a form of government in which “a strong leader can make de-

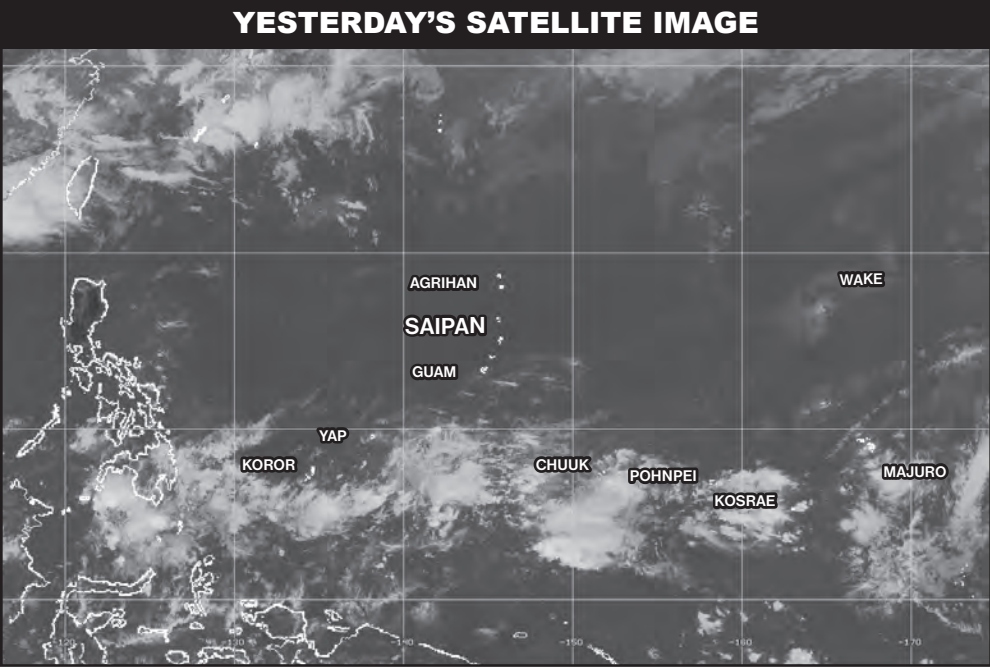
cisions without interference from parliament or the courts.” The pernicious appeal of strongmen is that they profess to offer magical solutions. Yet most of us spend lifetimes learning that no such things exist—that our governments can only realistically aspire to manage intractable difficulties, not banish them.

The “solutions” that Donald Trump offers are as simplistic as those of an old frontier gunfighter. Their spurious plausibility is perhaps unsurprising in a society ever-more poisoned by private ownership of firearms. But in truth Trump is a weak man masquerading as a strong one. In the White House, he would be powerless to achieve the outcomes that he promises because they represent fantasies.

It’s terrifying that our greatest democracy should be within range of possibility of re-electing as its president a self-proclaimed would-be dictator, who thinks that Adolf Hitler “did some good things.”

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Mostly cloudy, becoming partly cloudy tonight. Isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph, highest during the daylight hours.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.		Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of light showers.		Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of light showers.		Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of light showers.	
88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°



PICTURE TIME: 6:59 AM TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Altimetry shows seas holding in the 5 to 6 foot range with visible satellite imagery showing a few clouds passing by.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 78°	
Palau	Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Cloudy	84° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:50 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	-	6:28 AM	7:39 PM
Friday	-	7:10 AM	8:34 PM
Saturday	-	7:57 AM	9:32 PM
Sunday	-	8:50 AM	10:30 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Fair	66° / 57°	
Beijing	Fair	76° / 33°	
Hong Kong	Light Rain Shower	78° / 75°	
Honolulu	Showers	82° / 70°	
London	Cloudy	49° / 39°	
Los Angeles	Cloudy	69° / 58°	
Manila	Fair	98° / 83°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	64° / 54°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 74°	
New York	Clear	61° / 43°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	76° / 63°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	72° / 52°	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 55°	
Rome	Showers	66° / 55°	
Salem	Sunny	78° / 49°	
San Francisco	Windy	60° / 51°	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 53°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	66° / 60°	
Washington, DC	Clear	64° / 42°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:52 AM	Low Tide	0.93	
7:18 AM	High Tide	1.85	
2:12 PM	Low Tide	0.12	
8:48 PM	High Tide	1.85	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2024							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:10AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:10AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.						
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024						
SAIPAN TO ROTA						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily	
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily	
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily	
ROTA TO SAIPAN						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily	
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday	
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday	
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily	
ROTA TO GUAM						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday	
GUAM TO ROTA						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday	
SAIPAN TO TINIAN						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily	
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily	
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily	
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily	
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily	
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily	
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily	
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily	
TINIAN TO SAIPAN						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily	
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily	
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily	
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily	
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily	
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily	
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily	
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily	

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\$3.6K in financial aid available for students enrolled in NMC summer semester

Qualified Northern Marianas College students who are looking to access financial aid

can receive up to \$3,697 in Pell grants for NMC's summer 2024 semester if they submit

the 2023-2024 free application for Federal Financial Aid and the supporting documents

before June 1, 2024.

The Federal Financial Aid program is administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Through the program's various types of grants, loans, and scholarships, the Federal Financial Aid program is the largest financial aid provider in the U.S.

Students can submit a FAFSA by logging on to fafsa.gov. The necessary supporting documents can be found at marianas.edu/fao. NMC's school code is 015746.

To verify eligibility for Pell Grants, applicants can contact the NMC Financial Aid Office through email at fao@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6791/2/3/4. Applicants can also stop by the Financial Aid Office from 9am to 3pm, Monday to Thursday.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science in education (concentration in early childhood education, elementary education, rehabilitation and human services, or special education), bachelor of science in business management (concentration in accounting or without concentration); associate of arts in business, associate of applied science in business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), associate of applied science in hospitality management, associate of arts in liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, pre-engineering, social work, or without emphasis), associate of science in nursing,

associate of science in agriculture, associate of science in natural resource management, associate of applied science in criminal justice, and associate of science in fire science technology. The certificate programs at NMC include basic law enforcement, business management, computer applications, early childhood education, fire science technology, hospitality operations, nursing assistant, and small business management.

NMC's summer semester will begin on June 16, 2024. A list of the classes that are offered can be found at www.marianas.edu. For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at (670) 237-6769/70/71/72 or email oar@marianas.edu. **(PR)**

USDA Rural Development to host community outreach event at UOG

HILO, Hawaii—On Tuesday, April 23, 2024 USDA Rural Development Hawaii/Western Pacific State director Chris Kanazawa, Rural Housing Service administrator Joaquin Altoro, and USDA RD program representatives will provide an overview of loans and grants available for rural area residents, businesses and cooperatives in Guam and Western Pacific in an outreach event at the University of Guam.

Kanazawa said the event will provide an excellent opportunity to meet with government and business leaders to address concerns and needs

for Guam and Western Pacific. "Living on remote island communities always presents unique challenges and barriers to the access of resources readily available in rural communities on the mainland," Kanazawa stated. "Recognition of this distinction requires Rural Development to tailor its menu of programs to meet these special needs of our communities in Hawaii, Guam, and the Western Pacific."

» **Event will highlight USDA's housing, community facilities, business programs**

According to Altoro, it's important to make the trip from Washington, D.C. to see firsthand how USDA Rural Development can help with rural areas throughout the Western Pacific. "As RHS Administrator, two of my key priorities consist of working diligently with our staff to ensure we are implementing

necessary policy changes and expanding the reach of our programs and resources to all communities across the nation—including underserved rural residents in the U.S. Pacific Islands."

Altoro added that USDA Rural Development is a vital housing asset. "USDA Rural Housing is an important partner in the planning, design, and financing of community and housing infrastructure in rural communities. We are an important resource provider, and my hope is to continue to being a committed partner for rural communities in Guam and neighboring U.S. territories to address their unique housing and community infrastructure needs."

To learn more, visit www.usda.gov/hi. **(PR)**

Social Security to expand SSI rental subsidy policy

Last Thursday, the Social Security Administration published a final rule, "Expansion of the Rental Subsidy Policy for Supplemental Security Income Applicants and Recipients." This rule provides the second of several updates to the agency's SSI regulations that will help people receiving and applying for SSI.

"Our mission is to continue to help people access crucial benefits, including SSI," said Martin O'Malley, commissioner of Social Security. "Simplifying and expanding our rental subsidy policy nationwide is another common-sense solution that will improve program equality and will reduce agency time spent calculating and administering rental subsidy."

SSI provides monthly payments to adults and children with a disability or blindness, and to adults aged 65 and older, who have limited income and resources. SSI benefits can help pay for basic needs like rent, food, clothing, and medicine. People applying for and receiving SSI must meet eligibility requirements, including income and resource limits.

Under the final rule, beginning Sept. 30, 2024, the agency will expand its SSI rental subsidy policy, which due to judicial decisions is currently only in place for SSI applicants and recipients residing in seven states (Connecticut, Illi-

nois, Indiana, New York, Texas, Vermont, and Wisconsin). In those states, rental assistance, such as renting at a discounted rate, was less likely to affect a person's SSI eligibility or payment amount. This new rule extends the same advantageous policy to all SSI applicants and recipients nationwide. This may increase the benefit amount some people are eligible to receive and will allow more people to qualify for critical SSI payments. The agency continuously examines programmatic policies and makes regulatory and sub-regulatory changes as appropriate. Look for more announcements in the coming weeks.

For more information on the SSI program, including who is eligible and how to apply, visit Supplemental Security Income (SSI) | SSA.

To read the final rule "Expansion of the Rental Subsidy Policy for Supplemental Security Income Applicants and Recipients," visit Federal Register: Expansion of the Rental Subsidy Policy for Supplemental Security Income Applicants and Recipients.

The final rule expanding the rental subsidy policy is another announcement that removes barriers to accessing SSI payments. Learn about "Omitting Food from In-Kind Support and Maintenance (ISM) Calculations." **(PR)**

» **Agency continues to remove barriers to accessing SSI payments**

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"Congratulations to all of you," said Dr. Mary A. Y. Okada, GCC president and CEO during the ceremony. "I know you will be very successful because our children need you. So, thank you (completers) for stepping up identifying this as a career and helping to make Guam a better place not just for us as employees and employers but also for the children that we are nurturing through this process."

"Education does not only involve children, but also the educators," Kimberly B. Pangelinan said in her student testimonial. "Early Childhood

Educators are not only teachers they are also counselors, custodians, doctors, and many more. They provide a safe place for children to feel inspired and appreciated."

GCC recognizes the Department of Public Health and Social Services, Guam Economic Development Authority, Guam Fire Department, and the Guam Department of Labor.

For more information on the Childcare bootcamp or any other bootcamps, call GCC's Office of Continuing Education & Workforce Development at (671) 735-5640 ext. 54141 or email workforce@guamcc.edu. **(PR)**



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) through its Chairperson, hereby informs the General Public that the NMHC Board of Directors will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda

PUBLIC COMMENTS

REPORTS

- CORPORATE DIRECTOR
- DEPUTY CORPORATE DIRECTOR

OLD BUSINESS

- Homebuyer/New Construction Funding and Construction
- Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Funding and Construction
- Affordable Rental Housing
- Garapan Annex and Other NMHC Properties

NEW BUSINESS

LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Personnel Committee Report
- CFO

ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairperson of the Board

Business

Troon International lands LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort

Troon, the leader in providing golf and club-related leisure and hospitality services, has announced that it has been selected to manage LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort on Saipan.

The picturesque golf club, nestled away on the cliffs of Saipan, boasts a breathtaking Greg Norman design that encompasses spectacular ocean and mountain views across both the east and west course, offering a challenging and unique experience.

The stunning coastal escape at LaoLao Bay is further enriched by amenities such as a clubhouse with authentic Korean cuisine, a 55-room onsite hotel, and a sauna and massage room—combining to create a memorable experience for its visitors.

The new agreement between Troon International and LaoLao Bay is a significant milestone for the resort, with the enhancement of golf course management

and membership services a priority. As part of Troon International's remit, the aim will be to develop the resort's marketing strategy, elevating its offering to tourists, and growing its presence as a global golf destination.

D.J. Flanders, executive vice president of Troon International, said: "With Troon International's vast experience and proven track record in managing world-class golf courses, we are poised to elevate LaoLao Bay to all-new heights."

"Our expertise in course management, customer service, and marketing strategy will ensure that LaoLao Bay not only meets but exceeds the expectations of golf enthusiasts globally, as it continues on its journey in becoming recognized the world over."

Through this relationship, LaoLao Bay will integrate Troon Programs, including Troon Rewards, Troon Ad-

vantage and Troon Card, granting exclusive access to spectacular Troon International courses and offering its members exceptional value.

Kevin Hoang, managing director of Laulau Holdings Star Co. Ltd., said: "With Troon International's rich experience and expertise, we are confident that the partnership between Troon International and LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort signifies a new era for the iconic course."

"This alliance is poised to enhance LaoLao Bay's global appeal, merging Troon International's expertise in golf management with the resort's stunning vistas and facilities. As we look to the future, LaoLao Bay stands ready to welcome golfers from across the world, setting a new standard for excellence." (PR)

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

World

WORLD BRIEFS

European nations with Patriot missiles hesitate to give air defense systems to Ukraine

BRUSSELS (AP)—European Union countries possessing Patriot air defense systems gave no clear signal on Monday whether they might be willing to supply them to Ukraine, which is desperately seeking at least seven of the missile batteries to help fend off Russian air attacks. Russia's air force is vastly more powerful than Ukraine's, but sophisticated missile systems provided by Kyiv's Western partners can pose a major threat as the Kremlin's forces slowly push forward along the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line in the war. Only Germany has come forward with a single Patriot missile battery in answer to Ukraine's latest request. At a meeting of EU foreign and defense ministers, Dutch Foreign Minister Hanke Bruins Slot said the Netherlands is "looking at every kind of possibility at the moment" and is offering financial support to a German initiative to help Ukraine bolster

its air defenses and to buy more drones. Asked why the Netherlands is reluctant to send some of its Patriot systems, Slot said: "We are looking again if we can deplete our store of what we still have, but that will be difficult."

N. Korean leader Kim leads rocket drills that simulate nuclear counterattack against enemies

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised salvo launches of the country's "super-large" multiple rocket launchers that simulated a nuclear counterattack against enemy targets, state media said Tuesday, adding to tests and threats that have raised tensions in the region. The report by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency came a day after the South Korean and Japanese militaries detected the North firing what they suspected were multiple short-range ballistic missiles from a region near its capital, Pyongyang, toward its eastern seas. Analysts say North Korea's large-sized artillery rockets blur the boundary between artillery systems and ballistic missiles because they can create their own thrust and are guided during delivery. The North has described some of these systems, including the 600mm multiple rocket launchers that were tested Monday, as capable of delivering tactical nuclear warheads. KCNA said Monday's launches represented the first demonstration of the country's nuclear-weapons management and control system called "Haekbangashoe," or "nuclear trigger." The report described the drill as aimed at demonstrating the strength and diverse attack means of North Korea's nuclear forces amid deepening tensions with the United States and South Korea, which it portrayed as "warmongers" raising tensions in the region with their combined military exercises.

Satellite photos suggest Iran air defense radar struck in Isfahan during apparent Israeli attack

JERUSALEM (AP)—Satellite photos taken Monday suggest an apparent Israeli retaliatory strike targeting Iran's central city of Isfahan hit a radar system for a Russian-made air defense battery, contradicting repeated denials by officials in Tehran of any damage in the assault. The strike on an

S-300 radar in what appears to have been a very limited strike by the Israelis would represent far more damage done than in the massive drone-and-missile attack Iran unleashed against Israel on April 13. That may be why Iranian officials up to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei have been trying to dismiss discussing what the attack actually did on Iranian soil. Analysts believe both Iran and Israel, regional archrivals locked in a shadow war for years, now are trying to dial back tensions following a series of escalatory attacks between them as the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip still rages and inflames the wider region. But a strike on the most advanced air defense system Iran possesses and uses to protect its nuclear sites sends a message, experts say. "This strike shows Israel has the ability to penetrate Iran's air defense systems," said Nicole Grajewski, a fellow at the Carnegie Endowment's nuclear policy program who wrote a forthcoming book on Russia and Iran. "The precision of it was quite remarkable."

Review of UN agency helping Palestinian refugees found Israel did not express concern about staff

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—An independent review of the neutrality of the U.N. agency helping Palestinian refugees found that Israel never expressed concern about anyone on the staff lists it has received annually since 2011. The review was carried out after Israel alleged that a dozen employees of the agency known as UNRWA had participated in Hamas' Oct. 7 attacks. In a wide-ranging 48-page report released Monday, the independent panel said UNRWA has "robust" procedures to uphold the U.N. principle of neutrality, but it cited serious gaps in implementation, including staff publicly expressing political views, textbooks used in schools the agency runs with "problematic content" and staff unions disrupting operations. It makes 50 recommendations to improve UNRWA's neutrality. From 2017 to 2022, the report said, the annual number of allegations of neutrality being breached at UNRWA ranged from seven to 55. But between January 2022 and February 2024, U.N. investigators received 151 allegations, most related to social media posts "made public by external sources," it said.

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Life & Style

Mallory's last letter from Everest said odds of reaching the top were '50 to 1 against us'

By BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

In his final letter to his wife before he vanished on Mount Everest a century ago, George Mallory tried to ease her worries even as he said his chances of reaching the world's highest peak were "50 to 1 against us."

The letter, digitized for the first time and published online Monday by his Cambridge University alma mater, expressed a mix of optimism, exhaustion and the difficulties his expedition encountered on their quest to be the first party to conquer the peak.

"Darling I wish you the best I can — that your anxiety will be at an end before you get this—with the best news," he wrote to Ruth Mallory on May 27, 1924 from Camp I. "It is 50 to 1 against us but we'll have a whack yet & do ourselves proud."

It remains a mystery whether Mallory, who once famously said he wanted to conquer Everest "because it's there," and climbing partner Andrew Irvine reached the summit and died on the way down or nev-



British mountaineers George Mallory is seen with Andrew Irvine at the base camp in Nepal, both members of the Mount Everest expeditions 1922 and 1924, as they get ready to climb the peak of Mount Everest June 1924.

er made it that far. Mallory's body was found 75 years later far below the peak, but Irvine's has never been located.

The first documented ascent came nearly three decades later when New Zealander Edmund Hillary and Nepalese Sherpa Tenzing

Norgay scaled the mountain on May 29, 1953.

Magdalene College posted the letters online to mark the centenary of Mallory's ill-fated attempt to stand atop the world. The collection, which had previously been available to researchers, also

includes letters he wrote from the battlefield in World War I and correspondence he received from others, including his wife.

The only surviving letter his wife wrote from England during the expedition was sent as his party sailed toward Bom-

bay. It recounts a recent snowstorm, how her bank account was overdrawn and how she fell off a ladder before telling him how much she missed him.

"I know I have rather often been cross and not nice and I am very sorry but the bottom reason has nearly always been because I was unhappy at getting so little of you," Ruth Mallory wrote on March 3, 1924. "I know it is pretty stupid to spoil the times I do have you for those when I don't."

In his final six-page correspondence to his wife, addressed to "My dearest Ruth," George Mallory speaks of trials and triumphs as the party slowly made its way up the mountain, setting up higher camps and then retreating to lower elevation to recover.

"This has been a bad time altogether," Mallory wrote 12 days before he was last seen alive. "I look back on tremendous efforts & exhaustion & dismal looking out of a tent door and onto a world of snow & vanishing hopes—& yet, & yet, & yet there have been a good many things to

set on the other side."

Mallory said he had a nagging cough "fit to tear one's guts" that left him sleepless and made climbing difficult. He described a near-death plunge into a crevasse when he failed to detect it beneath a blanket of snow.

"In I went with the snow tumbling all around me, down luckily only about 10 feet before I fetched up half-blind & breathless to find myself most precariously supported only by my ice ax somehow caught across the crevasse & still held in my right hand," he said. "Below was a very unpleasant black hole."

Mallory said only one member of the party remained "plum fit" and they planned to rest up for two days before pushing for the summit, which was expected to take six days.

Mallory and Irvine were last seen alive June 8, 1924 when they were said to be still going strong some 900 feet (274 meters) beneath the 29,035 feet (8,850 meters) summit. Mallory's body was found at 26,700 feet (8,138 meters).

Celebrity handbag designer sentenced to 18 months in prison for smuggling crocodile handbags

MIAMI (AP)—A leading fashion designer whose accessories were used by celebrities from Britney Spears to the cast of the "Sex and the City" TV series was sentenced Monday to 18 months in prison after pleading guilty in Miami federal court on charges of smuggling crocodile handbags from her native Colombia.

Nancy Gonzalez was arrested in 2022 in Cali, Co-

lombia, and later extradited to the U.S. for running a sprawling multiyear conspiracy that involved recruiting couriers to transport her handbags on commercial flights to high-end showrooms and New York fashion events—all in violation of U.S. wildlife laws.

"It's all driven by the money," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Watts-Fitzgerald,

who compared Gonzalez's behavior to that of drug traffickers. "If you want to deter the conduct, you want the cocaine kingpin, not the person in the field."

Lawyers for Gonzalez sought leniency for the celebrity designer, describing her journey as a divorced single mother of two children who designed belts on a home sewing machine in Cali for friends

into a fashion icon who out-competed the likes of Dior, Prada and Gucci.

"She was determined to show her children and the world that women, including minority women like herself, can pursue their dreams successfully, and become financially independent," they wrote in a memo prior to Monday's hearing. "Against all odds, this tiny but mighty

woman was able to create the very first luxury, high-end fashion company from a third world country."

The attorneys said the 71-year-old designer has already paid dearly for her crimes. The Colombian company she built, which once employed 300 mostly female employees, declared bankruptcy and stopped operating after her arrest.

They also argued that only 1% of the merchandise she imported into the U.S. lacked proper authorization and were samples for New York Fashion week and other events.

Gonzalez, addressing the court before sentencing, said she deeply regretted not meticulously complying with U.S. laws and that her only wish is to hug once more her 103-year-old mother.

Flurry of new sounds drifts through quiet

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I live in a lovely older neighborhood and have enjoyed wonderful neighbors over many years. The homes are close together with windows often left open in spring, summer and fall, as large shade trees keep our homes cool.

A couple of years ago, our longtime next-door neighbors moved, and a new neighbor, a single woman, moved in. She was quiet, and we would occasionally visit in the yard. Well, over the last few months, a "problem" has developed. This neighbor has a new male friend who is there much of the time. Since the new friend's arrival, loud moaning sounds frequently emanate from her home.

It quickly went from a bit funny to shocking to annoying. It's unbelievable how loud and prolonged the moaning sounds are, the "Oh, Gods," the slapping and spanking sounds, not to mention the frequent back-to-back sessions.

Other neighbors hear it and have commented, so it's not just we who are offended. One neighbor thought someone was in distress and almost called the police until another neighbor told her what it was. It has awakened us and kept us up at night. Also of concern is that there are small children among our nearest neighbors.

Abby, is there anything you can suggest I do so our neighbor keeps her private business private without em-

barrassing or offending her? I would sure like to put an end to the auditory assault.

KEPT AWAKE IN OHIO

DEAR KEPT AWAKE: Approach your neighbor privately and inform her that the sounds of her lovemaking are creating a disturbance not only for you, but also for the other neighbors. Tell her that one of them nearly called the cops, but someone was able to stop the person. Then suggest that when she entertains her gentleman caller, they close the windows, because not only are people scandalized, but there are children who can hear what's going on. Then cross your fingers. If the noise isn't abated, DO inform the authorities. Perhaps they can be more persuasive.

DEAR ABBY: I've been married to my husband for 40 (long) years. Whenever I do something wrong, I get a note on the kitchen counter. This has gone on for years and years. This is the note I woke up to this morning. "Why did you leave the light on in the garage? To burn it out to see what I would do? I will do nothing except go to the garage in daylight." He always makes it seem like I purposely do things. I'm tired of being treated like this. What is his problem?

NOTES IN THE EAST

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



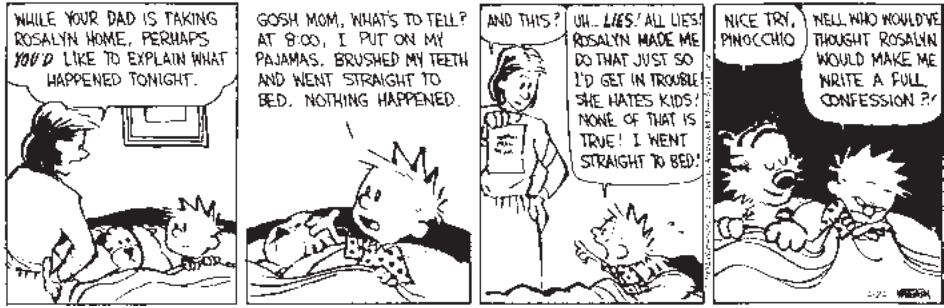
DEAR NOTES: I will assume you have addressed this directly with your husband. For whatever reason, he is hesitant to communicate with you face-to-face, which is why he resorts to notes on the kitchen counter. Instead of openly expressing his annoyance, he expresses it indirectly, which is the definition of passive-aggression. The next time it happens, call him on it—and confront him directly.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

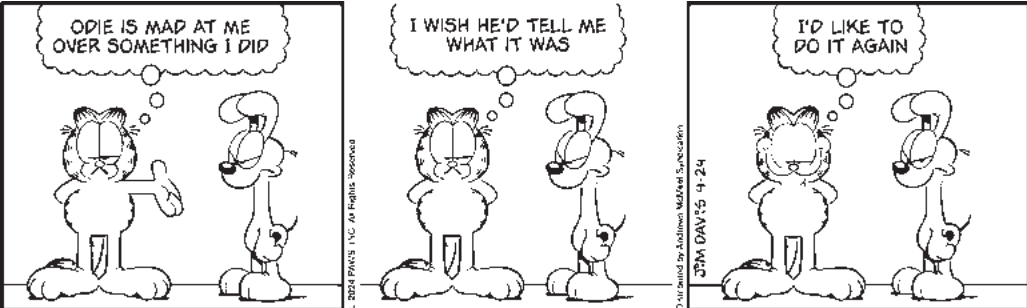
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



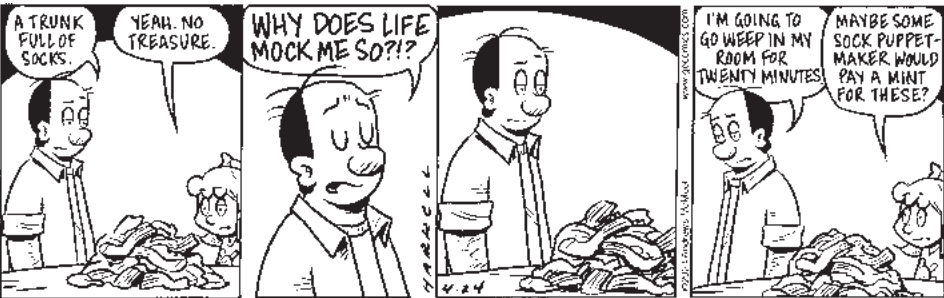
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



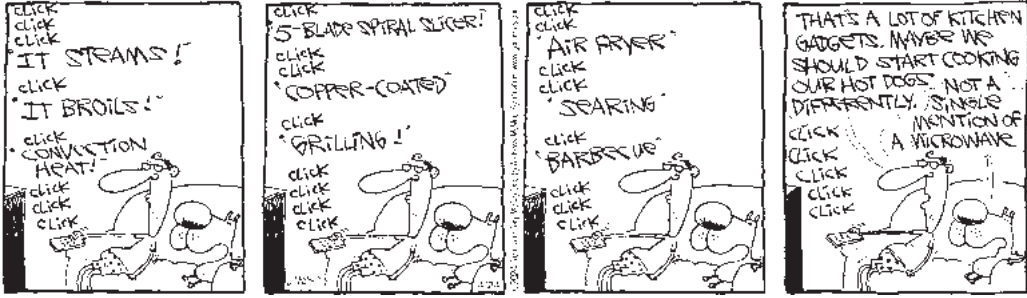
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Fire

4 Author Bellow

8 Blanchett of "Eliza-beth"

12 Hasten

13 Arsenal supply

14 Leer at

15 Promising words?

16 Museum amenity for clothing storage

18 Venice water-way

20 Actress Phillipa

21 Fine spray

24 Wide

28 Examine

32 Curbside yell

33 Squabble

34 — Park, Colorado

36 Chick's mom

37 War god

39 Rustic privy

41 Reacts in horror

43 Start a garden

44 "Caught ya!"

46 Sill

50 Informal home attire

55 Jamie Foxx biopic

56 Campus digs

57 Ultimatum ender

58 Mimic

59 Lane of The Daily Planet

60 Beloved

61 Sleep site

3 Inert gas

4 Similar to a pouch

5 "I love," to Livy

6 Actress Thurman

7 Oodles

8 Compan-ion

9 Bio stat

10 Pamper-ing, for short

11 "A mouse!"

17 Corn core

19 "Mad Men" network

22 Mediocre

23 Baller-i-nas' skirts

25 Hono-lulu's isle

26 Chopping tools

27 Eat in style

28 Rocky outcrop

29 Circle dance

30 Barnyard females

31 Head, to Henri

35 Protectec place

38 Twiches

40 Keats creation

42 "Thar — blows!"

45 Scored 100 on

47 Sans pizzazz

48 Be slack-jawed

49 Kept tabs on

50 "Good" cholesterol

51 Tic-tac-toe win

52 Swiss canton

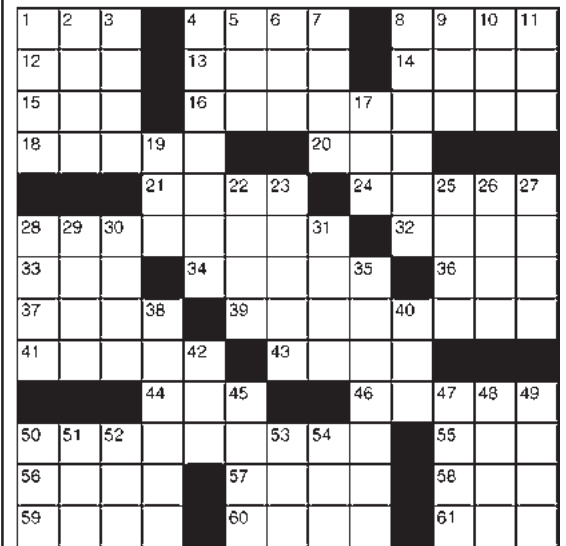
53 Yucatan "Bravo!"

54 Simile center

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	R	C	O	R	E	S	R	A	T	S
C	E	O	D	E	N	Y	E	L	A	N
H	O	L	D	O	V	E	R	S	E	M
O	U	R	S	C	H	E	E	P		
C	O	M	B	S	E	S	A	I		
A	R	B	S	O	V	E	R	P	L	A
M	A	I	E	L	I	S	E	O	L	E
P	L	A	Y	W	I	T	H	M	N	O
O	O	N	A	W	A	G	E	S		
S	P	O	O	K	L	A	S	H		
P	O	O	H	W	I	T	H	O	L	D
A	L	P	O	I	N	D	O	R	O	
S	O	S	O	E	S	S	O	N	A	G

Last Friday's Answer



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Katherine Webb, 35; David Boudia, 35; Kelly Clarkson, 42; Barbra Streisand, 82.

Happy Birthday: Focus on the present and finishing what you start. It's what you do that counts. Replace pressure with action, and you'll solve problems without drama. Refrain from relying on others when you can get things done yourself. The more indispensable you are, the more confident you'll appear. The trick is to maintain a steady, productive pace throughout the year. Your numbers are 4, 12, 24, 26, 35, 43, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll get help if you ask. A change will make a difference to the outcome of a medical, financial or legal situation. Do what's best for you, and focus on your next move. Listen to your inner voice, and use your charm to bolster prospects. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Delve into the latest and the most remarkable techniques and figure out how they can help you advance. Staying on top of the learning curve will help maintain respect and a good reputation. When the pressure is on, don't hesitate to implement change. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A benevolent attitude with a wait-and-see undertone will help you recognize who is in your corner. Let intellect and logic guide you when peer pressure is in play, and you'll find it easier to balance your emotions and clarify what's in your best interest. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Network, share ideas and reconfigure your plans to suit your lifestyle and personality. How you present yourself will go together with who

and what you attract. Formulate a solid foundation of friendships and inspirational connections, and flourish. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't make unnecessary changes. Research and educate yourself before you make a move. Be a good listener and compliment others enthusiastically; you'll build a strong circle of allies. Who you know will make a difference in what you achieve. Self-improvement is favored. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you participate, play to win. Preparation and protecting your interests are essential to gain more than you give back. Pick the tidbits you share carefully. Offer what is prominent and has structure to provide what's necessary, and keep everything else to yourself. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Spend time protecting your assets, reputation and loved ones from loss, insult or illness. Be a good listener and soak in every bit of information that can help you navigate your way forward in a charming manner. An opportunity will lead to stability. ★★★

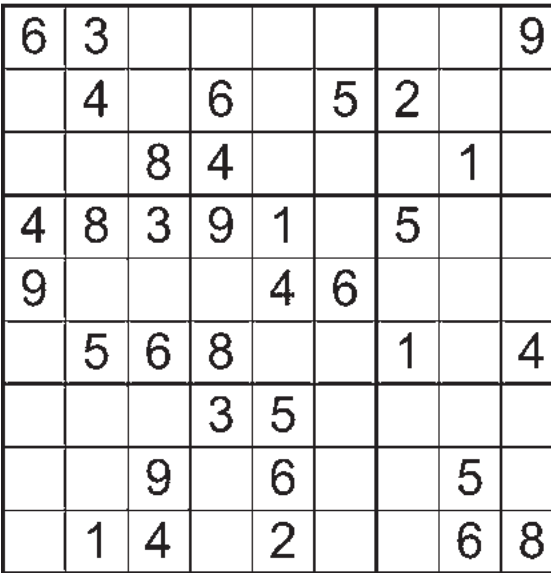
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Share your thoughts, feelings and intentions with someone special, but don't apply pressure. Freedom will promote honesty and integrity in your relationships with others. Let your instincts guide you; you'll know where you stand and what to do next. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be careful what you wish for; someone will take advantage of you if you let them. Get the facts before you decide what to do next. A problem at home will escalate if you trust an outsider to give you an honest assessment. ★★★★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



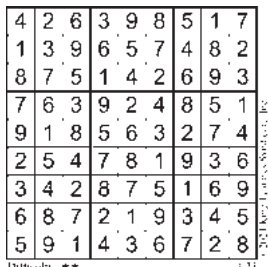
Difficulty: ★★★

4/24

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Choose battles wisely. Don't let emotions interfere with productivity at home or work. Tune in to your actions, and continue until you get the desired results. Avoid conversations you aren't ready to discuss. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Think and do for yourself. Don't let someone decide for you or put you in a vulnerable position. Do your own thing, master your skills and follow the path that makes you feel good about who you are, what you do and where you are heading. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Money and emotions won't mix. Protect your assets, avoid joint ventures or shared expenses, and make the necessary changes to ensure no one can take advantage of you. Put yourself in control instead of letting someone else handle your affairs. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are persistent, sensitive and dominating. You are ambitious and inventive.

Murray sinks shot at buzzer to cap 20-point comeback and lead Nuggets past Lakers



DENVER (AP)—Jamal Murray sank a 15-foot step-back jumper at the buzzer and the Denver Nuggets wiped out a 20-point second-half deficit to stun the Los Angeles Lakers 101-99 Monday night and take a 2-0 lead in their Western Conference playoff series.

Murray's fadeaway, falling-down game-winner provided the Nuggets with their first lead since 5-3 in the opening minutes and gave the reigning NBA champions their 10th consecutive win over the Lakers.

The series shifts to Los Angeles for Game 3 Thursday night.

Murray's winning shot came after LeBron James misfired from long range with 16 seconds left and the game tied at 99.

Michael Porter Jr. grabbed the rebound with 13 seconds left and the Nuggets didn't call a timeout.

Instead, Murray took the ball to the right side with Anthony Davis guarding him, stepped back and swished the basket just as the buzzer sounded. Both Murray and Davis fell into the Nuggets' bench as the sellout crowd's roar shook Ball Arena.

Murray finished with 20 points, including 14 in the fourth quarter, and Nikola Jokic posted a triple-double with 27 points, 20 boards and 10 assists. Porter added 22 points and Aaron Gordon 14 for Denver.



Denver Nuggets guard Jamal Murray (27) drives to the basket against Los Angeles Lakers guard Austin Reaves (15) during the first half in Game 2 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Monday, April 22, 2024, in Denver.

Davis led the Lakers with 32 points, James had 26 and D'Angelo Russell added 23 with a career playoff-high seven 3s.

The Lakers led 59-44 at halftime and stretched their advantage to 68-48 two minutes into the second half, and it sure looked like L.A. would beat Denver for the first time in 494 days. They still led by 10 entering the fourth quarter.

"I don't have a 20-point play," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "You've got to just keep chipping away."

That, they did, finally tying

it at 95-all on Porter's 3-point-er with 1:15 left.

Russell's biggest basket was his layup that gave L.A. a 97-95 lead with a minute to go. Murray was fouled by James and sank both free throws to tie it again.

James responded with a layup for L.A. with 48 seconds left but Murray matched him again with a step-back jumper at 30 seconds. Then, James missed from long range, Porter corralled the rebound and the Nuggets were on their way to one of the biggest shots in franchise history.

Murray, who started out 3 of 16, went 6-for-8 in the fourth quarter.

Russell sank three 3s in the opening minutes, matching the number of 3-pointers he had in the Lakers' last five playoff games against Denver. He made just one of his nine 3s in the series opener after going 2-for-15 in the Western Conference finals last summer, which led to his benching in Game 4. He finished 7 of 11.

CAVALIERS 96, MAGIC 86
CLEVELAND (AP)—Dono-

van Mitchell scored 23 points, Jarrett Allen had 20 rebounds and the Cleveland Cavaliers outlasted the Orlando Magic 96-86 on Monday night to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round Eastern Conference series.

Mitchell set the tone as the Cavs led from start to finish, just as they did in Game 1.

It's been an impressive opening to the playoffs for Cleveland, which spent the regular season waiting for a chance to redeem itself following last year's first-round exit against the New York Knicks, who punished the Cavs in five games.

Cleveland has been much tougher this time around.

Evan Mobley added 17 points and Allen scored 16—with nine offensive rebounds—for the Cavs.

Paolo Banchero scored 21 points and Franz Wagner 18 for the Magic, who have only come back to win one playoff series in 13 tries when losing the series opener. They're now in an even deeper hole.

Game 3 of the best-of-seven series is Thursday in Orlando.

Magic guard Jalen Suggs went down with a sprained left knee in the first quarter. He collapsed to the floor after making contact with Mitchell and immediately grabbed his leg in pain. After being helped up, an emotional Suggs couldn't put any weight on his leg as he was carried to the locker room.

However, the former high school football star returned after halftime with a sleeve on his leg.

KNICKS 104, 76ERS 101

NEW YORK (AP)—Donte DiVincenzo made a go-ahead 3-pointer with 13 seconds remaining after a desperate scramble, and New York beat Philadelphia to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round playoff series.

The Knicks trailed by five points within the final 30 seconds, on the verge of losing home-court advantage before a stunning rally, starting when Jalen Brunson finally got a shot to fall during an otherwise miserable night.

Brunson's 3-pointer from the corner bounced on the rim and fell in, cutting it to 101-99 with 27 seconds remaining. Josh Hart stole the ball from Tyrese Maxey to get the ball back for the Knicks, but DiVincenzo missed a 3-pointer. Isaiah Hartenstein grabbed the rebound and passed it to OG Anunoby, who got it back to DiVincenzo, who hit that one to make it 102-101.

Hartenstein then blocked Maxey's drive, Anunoby made two free throws, and the Knicks held on when Joel Embiid missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Brunson finished with 24 points despite going 8 for 29 from the field. Josh Hart had 21 points and 15 rebounds, and DiVincenzo scored 19 points.

Maxey had 35 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds in a brilliant performance after he was ill earlier in the day. Embiid had 34 points and 10 rebounds.

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

Nikola Jokic is one step closer to winning a third MVP award in the last four seasons. Victor Wembanyama is surely on his way to a trophy—or maybe two. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander might get a couple of his own as well.

The NBA revealed the finalists for most of the league's postseason awards Sunday—and to no surprise, Jokic, the Denver Nuggets' star, was one of the three top vote-getters for the top individual honor, the Michael Jordan trophy that gets presented to the league's Most Valuable Player.

The others: Dallas' Luka Doncic and Oklahoma City's Gilgeous-Alexander. Last season's MVP, Joel Embiid of the Philadelphia 76ers, was not eligible this year because of the new league rule saying players must appear in a certain number of games for award participation.

If he wins, Jokic would become the ninth player with three or more MVPs, joining Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (six),

Jokic, Gilgeous-Alexander, Doncic picked as NBA's MVP finalists

Jordan and Bill Russell (five), Wilt Chamberlain and LeBron James (four), and Moses Malone, Larry Bird and Magic Johnson (three).

Doncic

9th inning 2-run homer all A's need to beat Yankees after 1st-inning ejection of Boone



NEW YORK

(AP)—Zack Gelof hit a two-run homer off Victor González in the ninth inning, and the Oakland Athletics stopped an eight-game losing streak in the Bronx by beating the Yankees 2-0 Monday following the ejection of New York manager Aaron Boone just five pitches in.

After New York's Carlos Rodón and Oakland's JP Sears matched each other with shutout ball, Abraham Toro reached off González (1-1) leading off the ninth when the pitcher slipped while trying to pick up his dribbler between the mound and the third-base line.

Gelof hit an opposite-field drive into the right-field seats on a flat sinker for his third home run this season.

Lucas Erceg (1-1) pitched two innings and Mason Miller struck out Anthony Volpe, Juan Soto and Aaron Judge to remain perfect in five save chances, finishing a three-hitter and the fourth shutout against the Yankees in 23 games this season.

Oakland, which arrived after getting swept in a three-game series at Cleveland, had not won at the Yankees since 2021.

Judge was 0 for 4 with a pair of strikeouts and a double-play grounder, dropping his average to .174.

Ian Hamilton had gotten Shea Langeliers to swing under a high 96.1 mph fastball on a full count to strand the bases loaded in the eighth.

TIGERS 7, RAYS 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Tarik Skubal struck out nine over six scoreless innings, Mark Canha and Parker Meadows homered, and Detroit beat Tampa Bay.

The Tigers improved to 9-3 on the road this season.

Skubal (3-0) scattered three hits in winning his seventh consecutive decision, dating to last September. The left-hander is 2-0 in four starts against the Rays, allowing two earned runs over 17 1/3 innings.

José Caballero homered in the eighth inning off Shelby Miller as the Rays have lost three of four and six of 10. Tampa Bay had one runner reach second base against Skubal.

PHILLIES 7, RAYS 1

CINCINNATI (AP)—Ranger Suárez allowed two hits in seven innings and Kody Clemens hit a three-run homer as Philadelphia extended their winning streak to seven games with a victory over Cincinnati.

Suárez (4-0) ran his scoreless streak to 25 innings. He's won his last four starts

Former Falcons QB Matt Ryan officially announces retirement



FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. (AP)—On the very first pass of his very first NFL minicamp,

Matt Ryan delivered a wobbly throw that left his new Atlanta Falcons teammates shaking their heads.

They couldn't help but wonder if the team made a huge mistake drafting this skinny kid out of Boston College with the No. 3 overall pick in 2008.

"He threw a duck," said former Falcons receiver Michael Jenkins, chuckling at the memory. "We're like, 'Uh, is this the guy?'"

He was.

After putting up numbers that will surely put him in consideration for the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Ryan formally announced his retirement Monday to cap a 15-year career in which he spent all but one season as the steady-as-they-come quarterback of the Falcons.

He signed a one-day contract with Atlanta so he could officially close his career with his longtime team.

"I took the hometown discount," Ryan quipped.

The decision was not a sur-



Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan (2) warms up before the first half of a preseason NFL football game between the Atlanta Falcons and the Cleveland Browns, Aug. 29, 2021, in Atlanta.

prise, given the quarterback had not played since a single disappointing season with the Indianapolis Colts in 2022. He worked last season as an analyst for CBS, receiving a rousing ovation when he called a game in Atlanta.

Ryan, who turns 39 next month, threw for 62,792 yards and 381 touchdowns in his career, quickly becoming the face of the Falcons during the most successful era in franchise history.

He ranks seventh in NFL history for passing yards, ninth in career TD passes and won the league MVP award in 2016 when he guided the

Falcons to only their second Super Bowl appearance in franchise history.

But Ryan came up heartbreakingly shy of the ultimate goal when Atlanta squandered a 28-3 lead to Tom Brady and the New England Patriots in the title game, losing 34-28



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE